

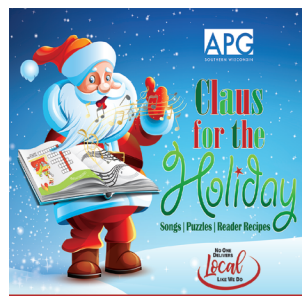
SPORTS

Four Sun Prairie Cardinals sign to play college football • B1



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Friday, December 17, 2021

WEEKEND EDITION

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Premium Edition



DANE COUNTY

Former city attorney pleads guilty to disorderly conduct

Two other charges dismissed; former city attorney referred to first offenders program

By Jennifer Fetterly
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The former Sun Prairie city attorney charged with bringing a loaded gun into a Waunakee bar in June 2021 pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct last week. Mark Leonard, 61, was

charged with operating firearms while intoxicated, carrying a handgun into a place where alcohol is sold/consumed, and disorderly conduct/use of a dangerous weapon, following the June 10 incident at Ripp's Bar.

Leonard pleaded guilty to the disorderly conduct charge at a Dec. 9 Dane County Circuit Court hearing. The two other charges were dismissed, with Leonard referred to a first offenders program. If Leonard successfully completes the Deferred Prosecution agreement, he will avoid conviction and sentencing on the disorderly conduct charge.



Mark Leonard

Police made contact with Leonard at Ripp's Bar that night and removed a Glock 34 and a Glock 43 from Leonard's hip holster and his waistband, along with a full 9 mm magazine on the top of the bar where Leonard reportedly was sitting, according to the criminal complaint.

A bar patron told Waunakee Police that Leonard had handguns at the bar that night and was showing the handguns to other customers. Waunakee

A bartender at Ripp's Bar told Leonard guns weren't allowed in the bar but she was afraid to call the police because she feared for her safety, according to the criminal complaint. The bartender said she did not see Leonard point the guns at anyone.

Security camera footage, reportedly shows Leonard with a handgun and holster on his hip and that he was showing the guns to other bar customers, according to the criminal complaint.

Leonard's preliminary breath test was 0.17, twice the legal limit for Wisconsin motorists,

according to the criminal complaint.

Leonard was placed on paid administrative leave from his city attorney position on June 11. The city council accepted Leonard's resignation on Sept. 10.

Leonard received \$9,211 for 21 days of paid leave between June 11 and Aug. 27, 2021, according to information obtained by the Sun Prairie Star in an open records request. Leonard used paid time (vacation and sick) for the remaining days, City Human Resources Director Brenda Sukenik

See **GUILTY**, Page A3

NORTHEASTERN DANE COUNTY

Colonial Club meal deliveries up, volunteer drivers needed

Drivers needed in Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove, Deerfield and Marshall

By Jennifer Fetterly
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Colonial Club has doubled its meal deliveries during the COVID-19 pandemic but is running short on drivers to help out.

With 11 routes lacking drivers Colonial Club needs volunteers as soon as possible to keep the program running efficiently.

"It's the worst it's been for needing drivers," said Laura Jennings, Colonial Club's Director of Support Services and Activities.

The Sun Prairie-based non-profit delivers hot and cold meals to 130 people



Laura Jennings

a day — a record number.

The COVID-19 pandemic boosted meal delivery numbers when the onsite meal program was closed and people couldn't or didn't want to leave their homes.

Jennings said those numbers have remained steady but volunteer help has shrunk. Some volunteers quit because of virus fears, others have gone back to their non-remote jobs and no longer have the flexibility to help out.

Drivers are needed Monday-Friday to deliver meals between 10:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. in Sun Prairie, Cottage Grove, Deerfield and Marshall. Volunteers choose a route and deliver from 10-12 meals in about an hour and a half. Volunteers need to fill out an application, have a driver's

See **CLUB**, Page A3



Jennifer Fetterly

Colonial Club volunteer meal delivery drivers Connie Dettmer (left to right) and Jane Zuelsdorf make last checks with nutrition coordinator Jean Detert before they set off for their routes.

CITY OF SUN PRAIRIE

New Culver's, Valvoline plans OK'd

By Chris Mertes
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Sun Prairie could see a new Culver's Frozen Custard and Valvoline Instant Oil Change open in 2022 if the Sun Prairie City Council affirms approval recommendation votes taken by the Sun Prairie Plan Commission on Tuesday, Dec. 14.

City Planner Sarah Sauer said in her report to the commission that McCon Construction plans to build the 4,650 sq. ft. Culver's restaurant — Sun Prairie's second location — with an outdoor patio and two drive-through lanes located at the southwest corner of Windsor Street and Oxford Place.



City of Sun Prairie

The Sun Prairie Plan Commission on Dec. 14 recommended city council approval of requests by McCon Building Corporation for approval of an amendment to the Slind Commercial Development General Development Plan (GDP) to allow drive-throughs. The commission also backed a Precise Implementation Plan (PIP) to construct a new Culver's Frozen Custard with two drive-through lanes at 550 Oxford Place.

Land is reserved at the southeast corner of the site for potential future development (shown as a drive-through

coffee business) at a later date. Vehicular access to the

See **CULVER'S**, Page A2

WISCONSIN

Kaul names Sun Prairie's Tina Virgil to head DCI

By Chris Mertes
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Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul on Dec. 15 announced the appointment of Sun Prairie resident Tina Virgil to serve as the new administrator for the Department of Justice (DOJ) Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI).

Virgil will begin her new role on December 19, 2021.

"Administrator Virgil will be bringing 29 years of experience at the Wisconsin Department of Justice, including extensive criminal investigative



Tina Virgil

experience, to her work as Administrator of DOJ's Division of Criminal Investigation," said Kaul. "I look forward to seeing all that DCI will accomplish under Administrator Virgil's leadership."

"The announcement of Tina Virgil as the new Administrator for the Division of Criminal

See **VIRGIL**, Page A2

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